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February 28, 2014

In support of SB-126 - Children's Exposure to Chemicals

Honorable members of the Public Health Committee:

I congratulate you for taking this bill under your consideration.

When tragedy strikes we pay attention. We are glued to our electronic devices in disbelief. But there are the less public tragedies, like a mother taking her young child with leukemia to the hospital for chemotherapy, the high school athlete about to start college just diagnosed with lymphoma, a baby born with birth defects, or the parents helping their child adjust to life with severe asthma. We all know the suffering that illness and disease can cause.

There has been a dramatic increase in a variety of childhood diseases: cancers, brain disorders, birth defects, and asthma to name just a few. This increase is substantially related to environmental factors and not to genetic inheritance.

Our knowledge of environmental factors is woefully incomplete, Tens of thousands of chemicals are in are environment and not adequately tested for their toxicity.

The very least you can do is to pass bill 126 to begin to identify as many chemicals as we can that are harmful to exposed children as a preliminary to taking action.

Respectfully,

J.A. Silbert, M.D.